

William Hickman Robinson collection

S1133

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts
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Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204
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Summary Information

Repository	Rare Books and Manuscripts
Title	William Hickman Robinson collection
Date	1862-1897
Extent	0.01 Cubic feet 1 folder
Language	English
Text [Folder]	S1133

Preferred Citation

William Hickman Robinson collection, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

Biographical Note

William Hickman Robinson was born on August 5, 1845, to Edward Jones and Mary Louisa (Branham) Robinson in Madison, Indiana. His siblings were Anna C. (born about 1843); Julia E. (born about 1848), to whom he wrote letters in the collection; Carrie (born about 1855); Netta E. (born about 1857); and Alford E. (6 months old when the census taker came in 1860). Will enlisted in the 54th Indiana Volunteer Regiment, and served from 1862-1865. His father, Colonel E. J. Robinson, was born January 4, 1817 and died June 26, 1896. On page 175 of Ann Turner's "Guide to Indiana Civil War Manuscripts," 1965, Will Robinson's 28 letters are described. Will died on July 5, 1868, and is buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Madison, Indiana.

Scope and Contents

Three photographs are William Hickman Robinson, Col. Edward Jones Robinson, and Col. Stewart. Of the three small yellow envelopes, two are from Frank Dean and one was sent to Will H. Robinson from Chicago, Illinois. There is one Western Union telegram dated 1868, from E. J. Robinson (Will's father) in Franklin, Indiana, to Mr. Ham Stapp in Madison, Indiana, which states: "Got here last night. How is Will. Answer here soon." There is no month and day on the telegram. Will died that year, on July 5.

All of the letters are handwritten in ink. The letters are to and from Will Robinson while he served in the 54th Indiana Volunteers, plus additional family correspondence. On July 26, 1862, Will wrote to his sister Julie that "Pa goes home today." There are eight letters written in 1862. In 1863, there are five letters. Six letters were written in 1864. In the last year of the war, there were nine letters. In a post script to his April 12, 1865 letter, from Holyoke Mills, Alabama, Will wrote: "we have heard of the capture of Mobile and glorious news from Richmond. It seems that the rebellion is being put down faster than we could have expected." On May 23, 1865, he wrote his father: "We heard that our boys that were at Vicksburg were on that steamboat that blew up and were all lost but hope it is not true."

Two letters have no year but were written during the Civil War. A letter dated June 30, 1892 was written by J. F. Thomas in Tullahoma, to Col. E. J. Robinson, in Bedford, Indiana. The last letter, written January 18, 1897 from Bedford, by W. Wallheiser to Sister Crane telling about their successful Sunday school, that men are out of work, , shows at the opera house, and asks to be remembered to the folks at Eau Claire.

Two letters have been transcribed: Frank Dean's letter to Will on November 26, 1862, and Mary Robinson's letter to her daughter Julia on July 12, 1863.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged chronologically.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

Custodial History

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a transfer from the Indiana Division on 1991/07/23.

Accruals

No further additions are expected.

Processing Information

Collection processing and finding aid completed 2014/10/30 by Nikki Stoddard Schofield.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Indiana

Personal Name(s)

- Robinson, William Hickman

Subject(s)

- Civil war
- Correspondence
- Photographs